(c) whether Government are of the opinion that our rich iron-ore reserves should be conserved to feed the extremely cost intensive steel industry in the long run; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to avoid shortage of good qualify iron-ore in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Projected iron ore requirements, calculated under different growth assumptions for capacity expansion of steel industry are as follows:

(Qty: in billion tonnes)

Year	Growth rate projection			
	National Steel Policy (NSP) Project (7.3%)	8%	10%	Differential rate*
2020	2	2.1	2.5	2.4

*differential rate model assumes 10% growth upto 2015, 8% growth rate from 2015-20

(b) As per the growth models mentioned at (a) above, the known reserves of hematite iron-ore, which is at present 7.6 billion tonnes our plants can sustain only for few years after 2030.

(c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Steel is in favour of conserving rich iron-ore resources for domestic needs.

(d) Being in the deregulated sector market forces determine the demand and supply of iron-ore.

Import of Iron-ore by China

4121. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chinese entities are boycotting the import of iron-ore from India and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that China has increased the export duty on coal used by Indian steel manufactures;

(c) if so, to what extent it has affected the cost of production;

(d) whether Government have engaged Chinese entities to resolve the issue; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Report (1998-99) of the National Commission for Minorities, New Delhi and related papers.

II. Report of the Prime Minister's High Level Committee on Social Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim Community of India and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under section 13 of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992:

(a) Sixth Annual Report of the National Commission for Minorities, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(b) Review by Government on the Working of the above Commission.

(c) Action Taken Memorandum on the recommendations contained in the above Report of the Commission.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-6588/07]